



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 3

March 2009

[www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

## Message From the Board

Recently the board has heard about increasing crime in our neighborhood; in particular, homes and cars being burglarized. Be assured that your neighborhood association is discussing the issue and working with the Austin Police Department to increase patrols in the area. But there is something that you can do, too. Make sure to lock the doors to your home and car. Avoid leaving windows open when you are not at home. Don't leave valuables such as cell phones and iPods in your car. Become a part of your neighborhood safety network. Most importantly, watch out for your neighbors and if you see something suspicious, call the police. If you should become the victim of a crime, please report to either 311 or 911. (If you want an officer to visit you, you must report the incident to 911.) Let's all do our part to make sure that our neighborhood is a safe and enjoyable place to live.

## Dear Neighbor,

Austin has launched the Green City Challenge for neighbors and neighborhoods. The goal of the Green City Challenge is to raise awareness in the Austin community about how you can reduce your carbon footprint, protect our natural resources, and reduce waste. By raising individual awareness and motivating environmental action, our community becomes a cleaner and safer environment, makes Austin a role model to motivate other cities to become more "green", and ultimately improves Austin for us and generations to come. This is why, as juniors at McCallum High school and residents of the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood, we are working for greater neighborhood participation in the Green Neighbor program with the goal of certifying our neighborhood as a Green Neighborhood. Our neighborhood's natural beauty is something we can and need to protect for generations to come.

Becoming a Green Neighbor is easy. All you have to do is obtain a booklet and fill out the included questionnaire about your house, lawn care, and other ordinary everyday habits. Completing the questionnaire will take no more than 10 minutes. Once certified, you will receive a variety of rewards ranging from your choice of free tickets to Barton Springs Pool to t-shirts. Plus, if 30% or more of the residences in our neighborhood become certified Green Neighbors, our neighborhood will be recognized as a Green Neighborhood and will receive a variety of rewards such as scoop-the-poop boxes and a landscape design plan.

You may be wondering how to receive these special Green Neighbor booklets. Well, you can find them at all Austin public libraries, but we want to make that even easier for you. If you are interested in becoming a Green Neighbor, you can submit your contact information online at <http://tinyurl.com/greenneighbor>. After we receive your information, we will promptly deliver a survey to your house. We have set a goal to become a Green Neighborhood before May 1st. If you could please fill out the survey before then, it would be greatly appreciated by all. And when you complete the certification process, please inform us at <http://tinyurl.com/greencertified> so we can track how close we are to achieving Green Neighborhood certification.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us at: [grant.mcclure@gmail.com](mailto:grant.mcclure@gmail.com)

Thank you for your commitment to make our neighborhood a symbol for environmental consciousness in Austin. The certification of your home and hopefully our neighborhood will protect the natural beauty of our neighborhood and keep it a better place to live for years to come.

**Thanks again!**

**Kyle Obermann and Grant McClure**

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Visit [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com) for details.

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center .....	974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police .....	911
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.) .....	311
Social Services (during work hours) .....	211
Dana Munguia, Senior Patrol Officer .....	974-5440
Ricardo Vargas, Senior Police Officer .....	974-5801
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line .....	210-698-1709

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**Newsletter Editor** ..... Andrea Torres

The HPWBANA Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. All neighbors are invited to attend. [www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

HWPBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St.

Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

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**DISCOVER YOUR VOICE!** - Learn to produce your own unique sound, or fine-tune a developing voice. UT Graduate and HPWBANA resident teaches private lessons in classical voice through a variety of musical styles. Call for more information. Marla Lowrey, MME, 512-363-9709.

## Classified Ads

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Granada Hills residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail [rperkins@austin.rr.com](mailto:rperkins@austin.rr.com).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



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## January Meeting Highlights

On January 28, the board held its monthly meeting. There were no community comments. The board discussed the neighborhood's participation in the Green Neighbor program, spearheaded by two of HPWBANA's young neighbors. The front and side yard parking ordinance was discussed and its adoption for the neighborhood will be voted on in February. The status of the traffic issues in our neighborhood, particularly in the Perry Lane area, was presented. The draft budget was discussed and the board voted to sponsor the Mayfield Trowel and Error event. Committee positions were agreed to by the board members.

Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the Yarbrough Library on Hancock. Neighbors are encouraged to attend and present any ideas or concerns they may have. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

## HPWBANA Business Memberships

For only \$50.00 a year, your business could help support HPWBANA events and special projects. Some business sponsors sought extra exposure to neighborhood residents by sponsoring and participating in the July 4 Parade and celebration. All the money raised by business sponsorships helps with our events – Egg Hunt, July 4 Parade, Annual Meeting and other special projects. In 2008, funds raised by business sponsors went towards the Perry Park Toddler Swing project (still in progress). If you want to gain extra recognition among the HPWBANA residents for your business, become a Business Sponsor! It's \$50.00 well spent! The neighborhood thanks you! (Email Carolyn Robinson at [carrob99@hotmail.com](mailto:carrob99@hotmail.com) for more information or call her at 750-4072.)

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# Future Stars of the



## March & April Home Games

Mar. 10	Toros vs. Ft. Wayne	7:30pm
Apr. 01	Toros vs. Tulsa	7:30pm
Apr. 04	Toros vs. Iowa	7:30pm
Apr. 07	Toros vs. Reno	7:30pm
Apr. 08	Toros vs. Rio Grande Valley	7:30pm
Apr. 10	Toros vs. Rio Grande Valley	8:30pm

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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### Austin Parks Foundation Annual Event – It's My Park Day!

March 7th  
9:00 am -1:00 pm

Mayfield Park and Preserve  
3505 W 35th Street  
Austin, TX

The foundation will be working on projects involving the removal of invasive plants. If you plan to attend, please sign up at <http://austinparks.org/>. This is a great way to enjoy your local park and help out at the same time!

For more details, you can also visit the Mayfield Park Community website: <http://mayfieldpark.org/>.

### Pipe Organ Recitals

The Music Ministry of Highland Park Baptist Church is pleased to offer a series of pipe organ recitals on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Organists from various Austin congregations will provide meditative music suitable for this reflective season of the church year.

#### The list of performers includes:

**March 4** – Chris Oelkers, St. Louis Catholic Church

**March 25** – Brooks Whitmore, Highland Park Baptist Church

**April 1** – Paul Keith, Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church

Each program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary at 5206 Balcones Drive. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Brooks Whitmore, [b.whitmore@juno.com](mailto:b.whitmore@juno.com).

### HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting

**Wednesday, March 25, 2008**

Yarborough Library- 2200 Hancock Drive

7:00 - 8:30 pm

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#### CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT Jumbo<sup>2</sup>

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6 MONTHS 12 MONTHS 24 MONTHS

### ATFCU 68th Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

**The Crockett Center**

For details, call 512.302.5555 ext. 7000.



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### Keep Austin Beautiful 2009 Clean Sweep

*Saturday, April 4th, 2009*

Each year thousands of volunteers come together during Clean Sweep to remove TONS of trash from our beautiful city. Last year 30 TONS of trash was removed in just two hours! We need cleanup leaders and project locations for 2009!

This is the perfect opportunity to clean your neighborhood, street, school, church or local creek. As always, KAB will help you recruit and register all the extra volunteers you need, provide cleanup supplies, arrange for collection of the full trash bags (and may even be able to provide a roll-off for some projects, if needed).

General volunteer registration will open the end of February. All volunteers get a free event t-shirt and are invited to a FREE volunteer party with free lunch, live music, kids environmental activities, green art, a rock climbing wall, great door prizes and more.

For more information, visit <http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/cleansweep>

A graphic for an Easter egg hunt. It features a large, stylized Easter egg with a rope-like border. Inside the egg, there are illustrations of a Ferris wheel, a roller coaster, and a building. The text "HPWBANA Easter Egg Hunt" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the date and time "Saturday, April 11th 10:00 A.M." and the location "Perry Park" are listed. At the bottom, it says "Plan now to volunteer to help stuff and hide eggs! For more information, contact Carolyn Robinson, carrob99@hotmail.com." The entire graphic is framed by a decorative border of leaves and flowers.

**HPWBANA Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 A.M.  
Perry Park

Plan now to volunteer to help stuff and hide eggs! For more information, contact Carolyn Robinson, carrob99@hotmail.com.

A graphic for Superior Painting & Wood Rot Repair. It features a large, stylized hammer and paintbrush on the left side. The text "SUPERIOR PAINTING & WOOD ROT REPAIR" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the company's motto "PROMPT - RELIABLE - AFFORDABLE - SINCE 1993" is listed. Further down, the services "INT./EXT. PAINTING - SIDING REPLACEMENT DOOR/WINDOW INSTALLATION - TRIM CARPENTRY" are listed. Below that, it says "EXTENSIVE REFERENCES - FREE ESTIMATES SATISFACTION GUARANTEED". At the bottom, the contact information "SUPERIORPAINTING@CENTURYTEL.NET 512-426-8997" is provided. The entire graphic is framed by a decorative border.

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EXTENSIVE REFERENCES - FREE ESTIMATES  
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### Ask the Board

**Q:** I have a neighbor whose dog constantly barks when the owners are gone. I am going crazy! What can I do?

**A:** A barking dog can indeed be frustrating and City ordinance makes it illegal to "keep an animal that makes frequent or long, continued noise" that is disturbing to neighbors. However, before calling police, we suggest trying to talk to the dog owner. Sometimes, the dog owner is unaware of the dog barking or has grown so accustomed to the dog barking that he/she is unaware of the problem. If the problem is not resolved after speaking with the dog owner, the neighbor can call the APD district representative (DR) for the area. Please note that if the police are called they cannot file any charges. They can simply get information from the dog owner and provide that information to the complainant. At this point, the complainant can go to Municipal Court and file charges on the dog owner for the excessive noise. Neighbors may also consider contacting the Dispute Resolution Center.

#### **Some additional steps may also help resolve the situation:**

- \* Maintain a "dog log" that includes all dates, times and durations of barking activity. Include any correspondence in which you have addressed the subject via phone, mail or in person.
- \* If possible, approach the individual(s) with your concerns in person when convenient.
- \* Call and talk to or leave a message during normal business hours the first time you contact them. If that does not work, be sure to call when the barking is taking place even if it's during the middle of the night.
- \* Write a letter documenting all of the times the dog has been barking utilizing your dog log.

And if a neighbor approaches you about your barking dog, please take the time to listen. With good communication, it is possible that neighbors can come to an amicable solution.



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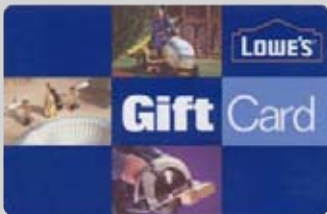
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## Trowel and Error

### Mayfield Park Gardening Symposium

Saturday, April 4, 2009 – Rain or shine!!

9:30 A.M. – 1 PM

Mayfield Park 3505 W. 35th Street, Austin, Texas  
(next to Laguna Gloria Art Museum)

On April 4, historic Mayfield Park combines topics dear to the heart of Central Texas gardeners in a series of "must hear" lectures.

- 10:00 AM Vicki Blachman, Certified Master Gardener Beyond Mince and Sprinkle: Using Culinary Herbs
- 11:00 AM David Meeker, Nursery Manager, Gardens Black Sheep in the Garden: Summer Blooming Bulbs
- 12:00 NOON Jill Nokes, Noted Author, Native Plant Specialist Yard Art & Handmade Spaces: The Stories that Gardens Can Tell.

### BRING YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS!!

And what's a garden event without a plant sale? Mayfield has the best deals in town for hard-to-find heirlooms and other perennials perfect for the April garden. A "garden goodie" raffle for the discerning gardener will round out the day.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, a non-profit organization, TROWEL AND ERROR is the solitary fund-raiser for historic Mayfield Park. Although admission is free, a \$5.00 donation is requested.

For more information: 1-512-453-7074, [neenok@aol.com](mailto:neenok@aol.com) or [mayfieldpark.org](http://mayfieldpark.org)

## New Kinder Information

If you have a child starting kindergarten at Highland Park Elementary next year, there is a great website you need to know about. The Highland Park Elementary PTA has created a valuable resource at <http://hppta.org/portal/>.

The Kinder Round Up for new kinder students is Tuesday, May 5th from 8:30am to 10:30am in the school cafeteria. For another great way to meet other new kinder students, consider joining the kinder play dates the first Thursday of every month at 3pm at Perry Park. Summer play dates to be announced later.

## From Camp Mabry:

Save the Date!!

American Heroes Celebration

April 18-19, 2009

The celebration had over 9,200 guests last year and they look forward to even more this year.

Watch for updates on [www.texasnationalguard.us/ahc/](http://www.texasnationalguard.us/ahc/)



## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### It's Dues Renewal Time! Support HPWBANA with your Membership

It's important for neighbors to join and stay active in HPWBANA. A growing membership makes us a stronger force with the City of Austin and allows us undertake projects that directly contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood:

Neighborhood Beautification Efforts  
Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade and Picnic  
Advocates for Neighborhood on City Issues  
Strengthen Neighborhood Safety Network

We need your support! Please renew your membership or become a new member of HPWBANA today. Send \$15 for a Family membership of \$10 for a Single-Member Household membership (only one adult in household) to:  
**HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Second Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about membership? Please contact Krista Saeger at 380-9062 or via email at [kristasaeger@yahoo.com](mailto:kristasaeger@yahoo.com)

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Constable's Notebook - Feb. '09

By Constable Bruce Elfant

I remember when a candidate for governor slammed a jail door shut to emphasize his position that Texas needed to get tough on crime. In 1984, when Mark White pledged to increase sentences and build more prisons, the Texas penal system housed about 39,000 inmates at a cost just under \$800 million per year. The crime rate was 6,030 crimes per 100,000 residents. Today the crime rate, lead by a significant drop in the murder rate, has dropped to about 4,631 crimes per 100,000 people but Texas prisons now house about four times the number of inmates at a cost of nearly \$3 billion per year. Increasing penalties for drug offenses, "Three strikes and you are out" statutes, and increased minimum sentences are significant factors that contributed to the sharply increased incarceration rates during a period of reduced crime.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics about half of the inmate population in state prisons is comprised of violent offenders, 20% property, 20% substance abuse and 8% minor public order crimes. Sixty percent of inmates have not completed a high school education. Nearly 20% suffer from mental illness and it is estimated that upwards of 40% are infected with Hepatitis C. The elderly inmate population that has increased by more than 33% over the last decade represents the fastest growing segment of the inmate population. It is estimated that 2/3 of released inmates will be re-arrested within three years of their release. That comes as no surprise given the number of inmates with substance abuse issues who receive no treatment in prison, the difficulties of finding employment without a high school education and with a criminal record, the societal challenges of mentally ill inmates, and those who actually become more hardened criminals while in prison.

Last session lawmakers began to ask whether the "get tough on crime" policy that had been in place for decades was the smartest approach to reducing the crime rate and the associated costs of the criminal justice system. Are sentences appropriate? Is incarceration the best approach for all offenders? Does it make sense to continue to incarcerate inmates who are in their 70s, 80s and even 90s and incur the health care costs that are double the costs for younger inmates? Is enough being done to reduce the recidivism rate? Why is it that Texas runs one of the world's largest prison systems but continues to experience one of the world's highest crime rates?

(Continued on Page 10)

## Staging Your Home

Staging a home to sell is a relatively new term yet the ideas and reasoning have been used for many years. Staging a home is a marketing tool that accentuates the positive aspects of your home that results in a quicker sale, the rule is that the longer a house stays on the market the further below market price it drops, so the quicker the sale the happier you will be.

Staging is common sense but the seller has to look at the implementation objectively – by putting themselves in the potential buyers shoes. The sellers mindset has to change to "this is now a house for sale and my home is waiting elsewhere" – this is a tough hurdle to overcome but, once you do this process becomes much easier. One of the main reasons to stage a home is that it has been found that 80% of the population can not visualize a homes potential, you have to show them. Staging your house will give you a competitive edge over other sellers in the area, it makes sense to put in a little extra time, work and a possible small investment on the front end to reap a higher return when your house sells.

An easy way to view the house objectively is to take pictures of the house, starting at your curb take pictures from different vantage points and then take pictures of each room from more than several angles – don't forget the closets. Have them developed then go some place quiet to look at them objectively – you will now realize that staging is multi faceted:

- De-cluttering (develop a purge mindset)
- Cleaning – from top to bottom
- Repairs critical and optional needs
- Staging –rearrangement of the rooms that optimizes the space

Its now time to set up a list by room and prioritize it, set up a timeline that you will stick to, and delegate to your family and/or outside professionals specific tasks. This is the time to file, discard, donate, sell or move items to a storage unit! Do not overwhelm yourself – tackle only one room at a time. De-cluttering is by far the most time consuming aspect of readying your home – but once its done everything else will fall into place. You want that buzz factor when your house is first listed – this is the houses' first impression – so make it a memorable one.

Next, tackling each of the rooms and where to start....

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Stone Canyon  
The Hills of Lakeway  
Travis Country West  
Twin Creeks  
Villages of Westen Oaks  
Westcreek  
Westminster Glen  
Wood Glen

#### -- Dallas --

Craig Ranch  
Estates of Russell Creek  
Hunters Glen  
Waterford Parks

#### -- Fort Worth --

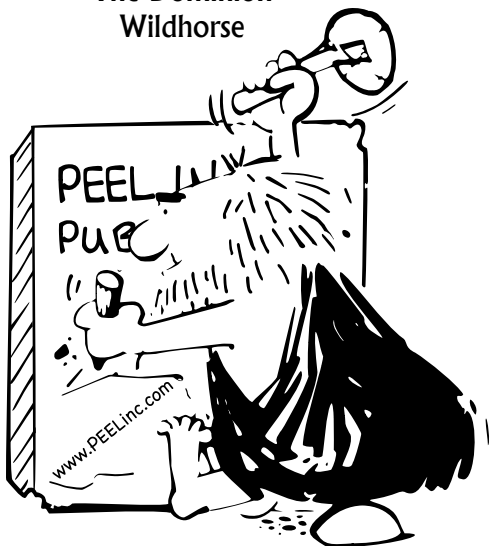
Brook Meadows  
Timarron  
Woodland Hills

#### -- San Antonio --

Bentley Manor  
Canyon Springs  
Cordillera Ranch  
Iron Horse  
Stonewall Ranch  
The Dominion  
Wildhorse

#### -- Houston --

Blackhorse Ranch  
Bridgeland  
Coles Crossing  
Cypress Mill  
Enchanted Valley  
Fairfield  
Harvest Bend The Village  
Lakes of Fairhaven  
Lakes on Eldridge  
Lakes on Eldridge North  
Lakewood Grove  
Legends Ranch  
Longwood  
Pine Brook  
Riata Ranch  
Shadow Creek Ranch  
Steeplechase  
Stone Gate  
Summerwood  
Village Creek  
Willowbridge  
Willowlake  
Willow Pointe  
Winchester Country  
Winchester Trails  
Windermere Lakes  
Wortham Villages



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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Constable's Notebook - (Continued from Page 8)

Travis County officials have long believed that finding alternatives to incarceration for certain non-violent offenders, making drug treatment and GED programs more available, treating rather than simply housing offenders with mental illnesses, and preparing the 99% of inmates who will ultimately re-enter society are far more effective strategies to reduce crime rates than the simply "lock 'em up and throw away the key" mentality that has long been state policy. It has been said that the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result. Almost every other nation and most states locks up fewer offenders, enjoys lower crime rates and pay less for their criminal justice systems than Texans do. Our state leaders should work this session to achieve a different result to make Texas a safer place to live.

*Don't want to wait for the mail?*

**View the current issue of the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**

## Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

		6		1	9		2	
								8
		5				7	9	
	7	8				5		1
		2	1	7				
			2	4		3		
6	9		8		1			
	2			3	6			

\*Solution at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

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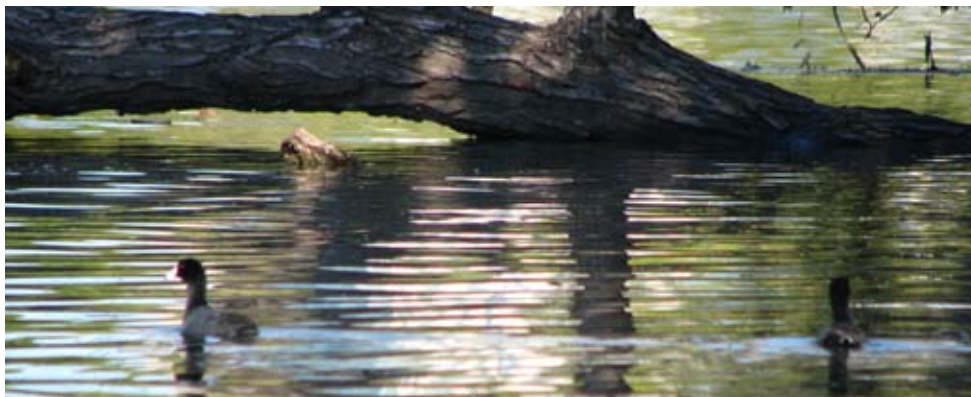
HP

# A Day in the Sun

*By Stephanie Rangel*

As spring and summer approach, the warm weather of South Texas does as well, which means more days spent out of school and out of the house. If you're having trouble thinking of fun things to do with the family or worrying about spending too much money going out, try your local parks and recreational areas. There are so many different, low costing things to do – from picnicking at the park to barbecuing by the lake. My most recent excursion out in Austin was canoeing on Barton Creek at Zilker Park Boat Rentals. For \$10 an hour, with my coupon for a second hour free (which can be printed from their

website at [zilkerboats.com](http://zilkerboats.com)), I was able to enjoy a nice day rowing on the lake with my husband. We saw other couples, families, and even a rowing class doing the same. The paddles were not hard to work at all and someone could even row by themselves. The nature and scenery to be seen on the creek is beautiful, as you can clearly see in the pictures below. Along with the beautifully green trees, it consisted of swimming fish, turtles, ducks, and swans. I would definitely recommend something like this to anyone looking for something fun and inexpensive to do out in Austin.





# STEPHEN SHERWOOD

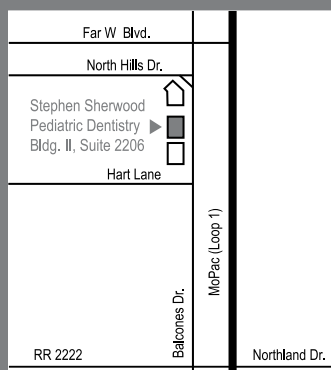
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